



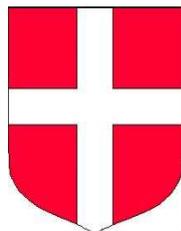
# EUROPEAN STRAITS INITIATIVE

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

ON

## EUROPEAN STRAITS INITIATIVE

(ESI)



Helsinki-Uusimaa  
Region



KVARKENRÅDET  
MERENKURKUN  
NEUVOSTO

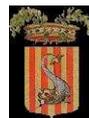


Iollandkommune



Pas-de-Calais  
Le Département

west-vlaanderen  
de gedreven provincie





# EUROPEAN STRAITS INITIATIVE

## Memorandum of Understanding

on

## European Straits Initiative

**WITH REGARD TO** the geographical discontinuity of the local authorities on either side of Straits, increasingly concentrated economic and transportation flows – and therefore environmental risks – linked especially to the significant development of cross-border conurbations, means that the transformation of Straits into economic gateways substantially changes their overall dynamic.

**WHEREAS** the capacity of Straits to be relevant stakeholders in future development is not supported by any specific European developmental or financial instruments,

**WITH REGARD TO** the strong involvement of local authorities in European territorial cooperation programmes, amongst which INTERREG IV A, IV B and IV C, and the long experience of the parties concerned in cross border cooperation since 1992,

**WHEREAS** the general framework of those programmes does not meet the expectations of these local authorities whose particular circumstances are linked to their specific geographical situation bordering national and binational Straits,

**WITH REGARD TO** current territorial cohesion policy which is targeted on non-maritime and non-coastal areas,

**WHEREAS** Straits are both maritime and coastal areas with the characteristic of being separate hinterland territories sharing common maritime areas,

**WITH REGARD TO** the integrated maritime policy which aims to integrate all aspects of coastal policies along the 70,000 km of European coastline,

**WHEREAS** the majority of coastal and territorial policies as regards economy, environment, migration, transport are focused on Straits which makes them privileged observatories and laboratories for the implementation of such policies.

### THEREFORE

Several local authorities decided to work together. The first European Straits Initiative Memorandum of Understanding was signed by 15 partners from 8 straits of Europe on 23 November 2010 in Coquelles (France). An INTERREG IV C Project (NOSTRA – Network Of STRAits) was launched in April 2012.

The parties to this Memorandum of Understanding agree on the following:

### Article 1 – General aims

This Memorandum of Understanding is aimed at:

- 1- Gaining recognition of the particular characteristics of the Straits within European policies, particularly the Integrated Maritime Policy and the Territorial Cohesion Policy;
- 2- Working for the emergence of cooperation projects, either through INTERREG programmes or other European programmes, developing mutual cooperation and implementing common actions and projects, in order to promote economic development, coastal protection, transportation and logistics, intercultural working and tourism activities.



# EUROPEAN STRAITS INITIATIVE

## Article 2 – Implementation

This Memorandum will be implemented through:

- the organisation of meetings with relevant European Union institutions and networks- the submission of European projects
- any other relevant actions.

## Article 3 – Management of the Memorandum

This Memorandum will be managed by at least one annual meeting composed of the relevant representatives of each party and meetings of regional/thematic sub-groups as appropriate

Each meeting will establish the date and location of the following meeting.

## Article 4 – Communication and dissemination

Each party is responsible for sending this Memorandum of Understanding to relevant local, national and European authorities.

## Article 5 – Ratification

The present Memorandum is subject to ratification by each party.

## Article 6 - Duration of the Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum is of four years' duration following its signature and may be jointly renewed by the parties.

The Memorandum may be amended and modified by the parties by written amendment.

## Article 7 – Principles

The preambles form an integral part of this Memorandum.

The parties are free to enter into cooperation with third parties not involved in this Memorandum.

New parties may enter into the Memorandum with approval from the majority of the parties.

A party may withdraw its membership by sending a letter to the members of the partnership.

Brussels, 22 October 2014